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REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

INSANE ASYLUM AT TUSCALOOSA,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MONTGOMERY:

BARRETT & BROWN, STATE PRINTERS.
1879.

REPORT.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

GENTLEMEN—The committee have the honor to submit the following report in reference to the Alabama Insane Hospital :

We made a careful examination of the buildings and grounds of the Institution, and found them in an unexceptionably good condition. Nothing could be seen anywhere that failed to exhibit that the utmost care had been taken to secure the comfort, and conduce as much as possible to the pleasure, relief and recovery of the most sadly afflicted citizens of our country, entrusted by their friends and the commonwealth to the guardianship of the Asylum.

The wards were clean, the beds neatly and comfortably furnished, and the tables well supplied with nutritious food. But we call attention to the fact that the wards are overcrowded, because there is not sufficient room to accommodate so great a number if even the patients should be distributed without reference to classification. The patients are well classified, well clad, and those whose condition require it, are constantly attended by competent and faithful nurses, under the direction of the physicians and the excellent matron, Mrs. Harriet Woodall.

The Hospital is well ventilated, kept properly heated by steam, lighted by gas, conveniently supplied with water, and well protected against fire. In all of its apartments it presents the appearance of a pleasant and well regulated home.

We examined the books of the steward, Mr. H. T. Matthews, and found them neatly and systematically kept.

We found that everything was fairly and honestly repre-

sented in the last Annual Report of the Trustees and Superintendent of the Institution.

Too much praise cannot, in our opinion, be bestowed upon Dr. Bryce and his very efficient assistants, Drs. Huger and Cochrane, for their attentive and humane conduct in the performance of their arduous duties.

We feel that our duty would be incompletely done should we fail to make especial mention of Mrs. Nellie Bryce, the inestimable wife of the Superintendent, for her personal devotion to the interests and happiness of the afflicted.

In conclusion, we present a printed copy of further inquiries made by the committee, and the replies by the Superintendent, as a part of our report. All of which is most respectfully submitted and commended to your earnest and deliberate consideration.

FRANCISCO RICE,
JNO. D. ROQUEMORE,
Senate Committee.

SAM'L C. MULDON,
A. W. GRIGGS,
B. M. HUEY,

Committee on the part of the House.

ALABAMA INSANE HOSPITAL.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Dec. 14, 1878.

*To the Hon. Messrs. Rice, Roquemore, Muldon, Huey and Griggs,
Committee of the Legislature to visit the Alabama Insane Hos-
pital:*

GENTLEMEN—The following brief replies to the inquiries made by you during your official visit to the Hospital on the 11th and 12th inst. have been printed in our office for the more convenient use of the committee, and one hundred and fifty copies are respectfully presented.

Question.—How many patients were in the Hospital on the 1st of December, 1878; how many were refused admission during the fiscal year, from the several counties, and what were the causes of such refusal?

Answer.—There were 406 patients under treatment in the Hospital on the 1st of December, 337 of whom were white and 69 colored. Of the white, 184 were men and 153 women. Of the colored, 32 were men and 37 women. Of the whole number, 378 were indigent and supported by the State, and 28 were private patients who paid their own expenses. During the twelve months ending October 1st, 1878, there were 167 applicants for admission to the Hospital, 102 of whom were accepted and 65 were refused for want of room. Of those accepted, 21 were for various reasons not brought to the Hospital. A complete list of all who were refused admission, with their counties of residence, duration of insanity, &c., &c., is here tabulated.

SEX.	RACE.	AGE	COUNTY.	DURATION OF INSANITY.	COMPLICATION.
Woman...	colored	....	Autauga	Many years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	40	Baldwin	8 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Blount	.....	.....
Woman...	white...	11	Blount	8 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Blount	13 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Blount	.....	.....
Man.....	white...	21	Clay	2 weeks.....	.....
Woman...	white...	65	Clay	6 months.....	.....
Woman...	white...	65	Clay	20 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	40	Covington	7 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	41	Cullman	6 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	28	Coffee	6 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	white...	24	Chambers	7 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	white...	70	Chambers	20 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	63	Crenshaw	2 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	18	Crenshaw	5 years.....	.....
Woman...	white...	27	Choctaw	10 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	27	Cleburne	7 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Cleburne	Several years...	Spinal affection....
Man.....	white...	27	Colbert	8 years.....	.....
Woman...	colored	40	Calhoun	2 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	35	Dallas	2 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Dale	9 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	DeKalb	Many years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	24	Elmore	1 month.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Etowah	8 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	colored	60	Greene	6 months.....	.....
Woman...	colored	....	Hale	.....	.....
Woman...	white...	....	Jackson	8 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	60	Jefferson	5 years.....	.....
Woman...	white...	35	Jefferson	10 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Lamar	A few weeks.....	.....
Woman...	white...	11	Limestone	9 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	colored	30	Limestone	.....	.....
Woman...	colored	....	Limestone	3 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Lawrence	Many years...	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	24	Lee	24 years.....	.....
Woman...	white...	40	Lee	10 years.....	.....
Woman...	white...	40	Madison	8 years.....	.....
Woman...	white...	23	Monroe	15 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	colored	70	Monroe	3 weeks.....	.....
Woman...	colored	25	Monroe	4 months.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	20	Marshall	9 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	....	Marion	.....	.....
Man.....	white...	22	Montgomery	Recent.....	.....
Woman...	white...	46	Montgomery	4 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	white...	60	Marengo	Many years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	....	Marengo	.....	Opium eater.....
Woman...	white...	82	Marengo	3 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	28	Marengo	5 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Mobile	5 months.....	.....
Woman...	colored	40	Mobile	3 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	24	Mobile	3 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	21	Morgan	3 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	30	Morgan	4 months.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Pike	1 week.....	.....
Man.....	white...	....	Russell	.....	.....
Man.....	white...	29	Russell	5 years.....	.....
Man.....	white...	18	St. Clair	.....	Epilepsy.....

SEX.	RACE.	AGE	COUNTY.	DURATION OF INSANITY.	COMPLICATION.
Woman...	white...	39	St. Clair...	5 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Woman...	colored .	25	Sumter ...	.....	.....
Woman...	white.	10	Talladega...	Many years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	....	Tallapoosa...	.....	Spinal disease.....
Man.....	white...	14	Wilcox.....	10 years.....	Epilepsy.....
Man.....	white...	21	Wilcox.....	21 years.....	Epilepsy.....

The cause of these refusals, as stated above, has been in every case the want of room. On page 10 of the regular annual Report for 1878 of the Superintendent of the Hospital is given the following explanation and reasons for the discrimination which has been made in the reception of patients:

As heretofore reported, for several years past the applications for admission to the Hospital were far in excess of the accommodations. During the biennial period with which this report closes, there were 311 applications for admission, of which only 158 were received. You are aware of the fact that when the capacity of the institution became inadequate to the reception of all who applied for treatment, the law restricting the admissions to the recent and curable cases was put into operation. As I remarked in my last report, this is a most important as well as humane provision. Without it the Hospital would long since have been filled with incurables for whom there could be entertained no hope of recovery or removal except by death. This would practically have closed the doors against further admissions, and the functions of the institution would have rapidly degenerated into those of a mere custodial establishment instead of a hospital, in fact as well as in name, for the treatment and relief of one of the most serious and at the same time one of the most tractable of all organic diseases. The operations of the law, however, notwithstanding the greatest care has been exercised to put it into execution, is often so difficult and embarrassing that much of its apparent effectiveness has been lost. The antecedent facts and history of each case of insanity, which the statute requires shall be forwarded to the superintendent before the patient can be received for treatment, are often both intentionally and inadvertently misstated, and in this way a certain proportion of incurable cases gain admission to the Hospital; while on the other hand the vacancies which occur, remaining unclaimed by the recent and curable cases which are by law entitled to them, are finally filled by a class of chronic cases far less hopeful of recovery. It is indeed gratifying to be able to record that but few cases of acute insanity, which we had reason to believe could be cured by treatment in the Hospital, have been refused admission during the year. The only occasion of regret to us, as it doubtless is to you and to all who are truly interested in the welfare of this unfortunate class, is that any should be refused. But those only can truly understand the bitterness of those refusals whose nights and days are spent in weary watchings, and whose happiness and peace of mind have been merged into a perpetual solicitude for the welfare and safety of their lives and property.

Colored women, laboring under acute and curable forms of insanity, have been and are still refused admission for want of room. The ward occupied by this class, with a comfortable capacity for twenty-two patients, is now crowded with thirty-seven. This condition of things cannot be changed until further provision has been made for the colored women.

Both white and colored men (recent and curable cases), were refused admission until about three months ago, when the new Lodge (fully described on pages 45 and 46 of the Report of the Superintendent), for the special accommodation of the colored men, was completed.

Since the occupation of this Lodge the recent cases of both classes have been received. At present there are a few unclaimed vacancies in the wards for white women, and in the new Lodge for colored men.

Of the chronic insane for whom application was made during the year many were of the most violent and dangerous type, and we were compelled to refuse them, in many instances, against the petitions and remonstrances of their friends, county officers, and often of the entire communities in which they reside. We have received letters by the score appealing to us in behalf of these unfortunates, who were either locked up in the county jails, or chained in outhouses, naked, neglected, ill-fed and often abused, or who were roaming at large through the country, a terror to their families and the communities into which they straggle. To close our ears to these piteous appeals, as we are now compelled to do, has become the most painful duty connected with our office.

The Superintendents of American Hospital for the Insane—a distinguished body of experienced physicians, embracing an active membership of over one hundred of the most scientific alienists in America—in a series of propositions relating to the construction of hospitals and the care of the insane; declared, with all the emphasis of united action, that it was plainly the duty of every State to provide liberally for this helpless and unhappy class of its citizens; that it was inexpedient and unsafe to crowd the wards of our hospitals beyond their capacity for the safe, healthful and comfortable keeping and treatment of the patients, and that such a course

was alike highly prejudicial to the interests of the State and the welfare of the insane. The following resolutions are among the latest expressions of this eminent body on the subject under discussion, and are well worthy of your respect and earnest consideration.

Resolved, That every State should make ample and suitable provision for all its insane.

Resolved, That no expense that is required to provide just as many hospitals as may be necessary to give the most skilful and enlightened care to all their insane, can properly be regarded as either unwise, inexpedient or beyond the means of any one of the United States or British Provinces.

Resolved, That this Association regards the custom of admitting a greater number of patients than the buildings can properly accommodate, which is now becoming so common in hospitals for the insane, in nearly every section of the country, as an evil of great magnitude, productive of extraordinary dangers, subversive of the good order, perfect discipline and greatest usefulness of these institutions, and of the best interests of the insane.

Resolved, That this Association having repeatedly affirmed its well-matured convictions of the humanity, expediency and economy of every State making ample provision for all its insane, regards it as an important means of effecting this object that these institutions be kept in the highest state of efficiency and the difference in condition of patients treated in them and those kept in almshouses, jails, and even private houses, be thus most clearly demonstrated.

Resolved, That while fully recognizing the great suffering and serious loss that must result to individuals by their exclusion from hospitals when laboring under an attack of insanity, this Association fully believes that the greatest good will result to the largest number, and at the earliest day, by the adoption of the course now indicated.

Resolved, That the boards of management of the different hospitals on this continent be urged, most earnestly, to adopt such measures as will effectually prevent more patients being admitted into their respective institutions than, in the opinions of their superintendents, can be treated with the greatest efficiency and without impairing the welfare of their fellow sufferers.

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the boards of management of the different hospitals for the insane in the United States and British Provinces.

The official utterances of the Association of American Superintendents on all matters pertaining to the insane are received as the highest authority both in this country and Great Britain. To use the words of an English Superintendent, referring to the various "Propositions and Resolutions" adopted by the Association from time to time, "they have done much to shape the course of action of medical men connected with the specialty not only in England but throughout Europe, and have been translated into French, German,

and other languages; and published in all the most important foreign journals."

Question. What was the first cost of the Alabama Insane Hospital, and what additions to the present buildings are needed to meet the present demand for admissions?

Answer. From first to last the State has appropriated \$300,000 for the construction and completion of the present buildings, and I presume that \$50,000 in addition has been saved from the current revenues of the hospital and expended, in the last eighteen years, in permanent improvements. A description of the huge building, three and four stories high, measuring nearly 800 feet in length, and now filled with patients, with the several outbuildings, including the extensive and complete machine shops, boiler and pump houses, steam laundry, barns, stables, &c., would occupy more time than you would be willing to give to its perusal. A brief but good description of them can be found in the Hand Book of Alabama, by Saffold Berney. Large as the sum expended in construction may seem, it is less, far less, than the average cost of similar institutions in other States of the same size and completeness.

TABLE,

Showing Location, Name, Cost of Buildings and Maintenance, etc., of the Principal Hospitals in the United States, 1878—Revised and Corrected.

Number.	LOCATION.	NAME OF HOSPITAL.	Cost of building.	Number of patients intended to accommodate	Average cost of construction per patient.	Annual cost of maintenance per patient.
1	Alabama, Taskaloosa.....	Alabama Insane Hospital.....	\$ 300 000	400	\$ 750 00	\$ 182 00
2	California, Napa City....	California Hospital for the Insane.....	1,375 000	628	2,190 00	200 75
3	Connecticut, Middleton.....	General Hospital for the Insane.....	640,43	450	1,422 00	250 00
4	Connecticut, Hartford.....	Retreat for the Insane.....	.....	...	.....	747 24
5	District of Columbia, Washington.....	Government Hospital for the Insane.....	569,907	563	1,012 00	223 15
6	Georgia, Milledgeville.....	Lunatic Asylum.....	350,000	400	875 00	253 72
7	Iowa, Mount Pleasant.....	Iowa Hospital for the Insane.....	370,000	300	1,233 00	195 00
8	Iowa, Des Moines.....	Hospital for the Insane.....	.....	...	.....	213 00
9	Iowa, Independence.....	Hospital for the Insane.....	700,000	400	1,750 00	200 00
10	Illinois, Batavia.....	Bellevue Place.....	20,000	20	1,000 00	500 00
11	Illinois, Jacksonville.....	Illinois State Hospital for the Insane.....	575,000	600	958 00	199 66
12	Illinois, Elgin.....	Northern Insane Hospital.....	.....	...	.....	237 25
13	Illinois, Anna.....	Illinois Southern Hospital for the Insane.....	423,982	...	.....	.....
14	Indiana, Indianapolis.....	Indiana Hospital for the Insane.....	500,000	500	1,000 00	234 00
15	Kentucky, Lexington.....	Eastern Lunatic Asylum.....	400,000	550	727 00	200 00
16	Kentucky, Hopkinsville.....	Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum.....	290,000	325	892 00	200 00
17	Kentucky, Anchorage.....	Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum.....	200,000	325	615 00	200 00
18	Kansas, Osawatamie.....	Kansas State Insane Asylum... ..	170,000	230	735 00	252 00
19	Massachusetts, Taunton.....	Taunton Lunatic Asylum.....	300,000	550	545 00	195 00
20	Massachusetts, Worcester.....	Worcester Lunatic Asylum.....	1,167,385	700	1,614 50	212 16
21	Massachusetts, Summerville.....	McLean Asylum for Insane.....	385,369	...	.....	1,025 44

CONTINUATION OF TABLE,

Showing Location, Name, Cost of Building and Maintenance, etc., of the Principal Hospitals in the United States, 1878—Revised and Corrected.

Number.	LOCATION.	NAME OF HOSPITAL.	Cost of building.	Number of patients intended to accommodate.	Average cost of construction per patient.	Annual cost of maintenance per patient.
22	Massachusetts, South Boston.....	Boston Lunatic Asylum.....	\$.....	...	\$.....	\$ 309 00
23	Maryland, Baltimore.....	Hospital for Insane.....	336,176	325	1,034 00	.....
24	Michigan, Kalamazoo.....	Michigan Asylum for the Insane.....	426,846	306	1,393 00	277 44
25	Mississippi, Jackson.....	Mississippi State Lunatic Asylum.....	400,000	375	1,070 00	234 00
26	Missouri, Fulton ..	State Lunatic Asylum.....	265,000	350	757 00	208 00
27	Minnesota, St. Peter.....	Minnesota Hospital for the Insane.....	606,113	500	1,212 00	195 52
28	New Hampshire, Concord.....	New Hampshire Asylum for Insane.....	230,000	285	807 00	263 92
29	New Jersey, Trenton... ..	New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum.....	438,013	500	876 00	260 00
30	New Jersey, Morristown.....	State Asylum for the Insane.....	.....	...	.....	245 96
31	New York, Utica.....	New York State Lunatic Asylum.....	730,403	600	1,217 00	263 12
32	New York, Auburn.....	Asylum for Insane Criminals.....	.....	160	.....	200 00
33	New York, Middletown.. . . .	State Homeopathic Asylum for Insane.....	511,037	240	2,130 00	312 00
34	New York, Canandaigua.....	Brigham Hall.....	60,000	60	1,000 00	370 00
35	New York, Poughkeepsie.....	Hudson River State Hospital.....	1,698,084	350	3,136 00	332 80
36	New York, Flatbush.....	King's County Lunatic Asylum.....	564,000	450	1,253 00	208 00
37	New York, Troy.....	Rensselaer County Lunatic Asylum.....	50,000	...	.....	230 00
38	New York, Bloomingdale.....	Bloomingdale Insane Asylum.....	250,000	180	1,389 00	638 00
39	Nebraska, Lincoln.....	Nebraska Hospital for the Insane.....	150,000	100	1,500 00	237 25
40	North Carolina, Raleigh.....	Insane Asylum of North Carolina.....	300,000	224	1,340 00	250 00
41	Ohio, College Hill.....	Cincinnati Sanitarium.....	100,000	65	1,538 00	520 00
42	Ohio, Newburgh.....	Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum.....	270,000	300	900 00	224 64

43	Ohio, Dayton.....	Dayton Hospital for the Insane.....	\$ .....	....	\$ .....	\$ 190 00
44	Ohio, Athens.....	Athens Hospital for the Insane..	.....	....	.....	206 38
45	Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.....	Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital.....	300,000	400	750 00	209 04
46	Pennsylvania, Danville.....	State Hospital for the Insane.....	1,012,000	700	1,445 00	232 44
47	Pennsylvania, Dixmont.....	Western Pennsylvania Hospital for Insane.....	560,000	400	1,400 00	250 12
48	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.....	Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.....	800,000	500	1,600 00	494 00
49	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Asylum for persons deprived of reason.....	.....	95	.....	483 60
50	Rhode Island, Providence.....	Butler Hospital for Insane.....	200,000	160	1,250 00	416 00
51	South Carolina, Columbia.....	Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina.....	250,000	263	950 00	250 00
52	Tennessee, Nashville.....	Hospital for the Insane.....	300,000	375	800 00	190 67
53	Tennessee, Nashville.....	Asylum for colored Insane.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
54	Texas, Austin.....	Texas State Lunatic Asylum.....	.....	264	.....	345 19
55	Vermont, Brattleboro.....	Vermont Asylum for the Insane.....	350,000	400	875 00	198 12
56	Virginia, Williamsburg.....	Eastern Lunatic Asylum of Virginia.....	.....	300	.....	190 98
57	Virginia, Richmond.....	Central Lunatic Asylum.....	.....	240	.....	190 00
58	Washington Territory, Steilacoom.....	Asylum for the Insane.....	.....	.....	.....	273 75
59	Wisconsin, Madison.....	Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane.....	418,000	362	1,155 00	234 00
60	Wisconsin, Oshkosh.....	Northern Hospital for the Insane.....	620,650	550	1,143 00	234 00

The table given above, which has been prepared with great care from the letters and reports of the Superintendents, will give you a correct idea of the comparative cost of the principal Hospitals in the United States, and the amounts yearly expended in their support.

It will be seen from this table that the cost of construction of this Hospital averages \$750 for each patient it was intended to accommodate, and it will be seen upon a closer view that it is far below the general average of construction of the Hospitals which appear in the table. The price of labor and building materials are probably as high or higher now than they were before the war, when the present buildings were erected. Assuming, however, that with our present improved wood-working machinery driven by steam, and our unusual facilities for making brick and procuring other materials at lowest rates, it might be safe to reduce the per capita estimate of extension of the present building to \$500. But to extend the Hospital in accordance with its present architectural design, another section three stories high must be added to the extreme end of each wing, giving six additional wards and accommodation for 150 patients. At the above reduced estimate of construction these will cost, completed, \$75,000. This, I repeat, is the lowest estimate which it would be safe to adopt, and it will therefore be unwise to reduce it. Our neighbors, Georgia and Mississippi, have recently extended their hospital buildings to meet the demand created by the increase of insanity in their respective borders. The cost in either case, I am reliably informed, will not be less in the aggregate than the sum of \$800 for each additional patient to be accommodated.

I am thus particular in this matter in order that there may be no misapprehension on the part of our Legislators as to how much will be required to provide, in the spirit of modern improvement, for the suffering insane now languishing in the jails and poor-houses of the country. Believing, on the contrary, with the Association of Superintendents, in the opinion that every State is bound by the double claim of interest and humanity to provide such establishments for the benefit of its citizens, and that the best constructed, best arranged, and most liberally managed hospitals are chaepest

in the end, I am rather anxious that the people generally should understand that such institutions, from their character and objects, must necessarily be costly as compared with cheap boarding-houses or alms-houses; and that the cost of simply supporting life and preventing absolute suffering in the latter can never be made the standard for the rate of a proper custodial and curative treatment of the former.

If, then, this Hospital is to be enlarged by the addition of another section to each wing, so as to accommodate 150 additional patients, it will require at the very lowest calculation \$75,000 to complete the work successfully and in accordance with the achitectural designs and proportions of the present structure.

It is proper that I should inform the Committee in this connection of the intention of the Trustees to erect in the Spring a Lodge or detached building for the accommodation of the colored women who are now crowded into one of the lower wards of the main Hospital. This Lodge will be of the same size and proportions as the one built last Spring for the colored men, and described in our last Report. When completed this will increase the present accommodation to 450 patients; and if the Legislature should authorize the extension of the main building by the erection of the two additional sections, there will be room in all for 600 patients. This will relieve the present demands for room and will accommodate as many insane persons as it has been determined by the best authorities to be proper to place in one institution.

Question. What has been the cost of supporting patients in the Alabama Insape Hospital compared with other similar institutions of the kind in the United States; and is it practicable to reduce the present expenses without detriment to the health and comfort of the patients or to the usefulness of the institution?

Answer. By reference to our Treasurer's statement on page 50 of the last annual Report of the Trustees, 500 copies of which were ordered printed for the use of the Legislature, you will find that \$64,428 were received from the State Treasurer for the support of the institution for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1878. It is also shown elsewhere in the

Report that there was a daily average of 389 patients under treatment during the year, of which number about 360 were in indigent circumstances and were sent here to be supported at the expense of the State. A little calculation will show that the per capita cost of these latter has been at the rate of \$3 50 per week or \$182 00 per annum. I would ask your attention again to the above table showing the comparative cost of supporting the insane in the principal hospitals in this country, in which it is shown that Alabama expends and appropriates proportionately less in the support of her insane than any State in the Union that can boast of a first class hospital for the care and treatment of this unfortunate class of persons!

To your question whether the sum expended for support might not be further reduced, the foregoing simple statement of facts would seem to be a sufficient answer. But there are other facts touching this question of support which it is important for you to know. There are two methods of conducting an institution of this character. One method embraces no other consideration than that of maintaining the unfortunate men and women consigned to its walls as public paupers, at the lowest rate of expenditure. The other takes into consideration the greatest possible good to be accomplished by the timely and judicious exercise of such humane and benevolent instrumentalities as are best fitted for the amelioration of the peculiar sufferings of the insane. Besides the comfort, relief and restoration of these unfortunates to society, in the shortest possible time, such method contemplates all the improvements incident to the progress of science and the appliances of art which an advancing civilization has contributed to these ends, and which are necessary to keep your institution in the front rank of sanitariums of like dignity and importance. Believing that it is the wish of every intelligent citizen of the State that their Hospital shall be conducted in such manner and with such liberality of expenditure, intelligently and economically directed, as will meet their approbation and desire were their own loved and dearest ones to become participants of its beneficence, I have adopted the latter method and have acted upon it to the extent of the means furnished by the State.

But is the allowance of \$182 per annum more than sufficient to meet the wants of the insane? You will bear in mind that the sum is intended to cover not only the board, clothing, bedding, furniture, nurse-hire and medical supplies of the patients, but the salaries of the physicians and other officers and employees connected with the institution, together with the repairs and improvements upon the immense establishment in which the patients are confined. The nurse-hire alone of each patient is more than thirty dollars per annum, and the clothing is nearly as much more! The building and repairs, done in the most economical manner, have cost during the year more than \$10,000, or one-eighth of the whole allowance!* Turning to the Steward's statement of expenditures on page 51 of the published Report, and deducting, in addition to the above, the sums expended in heating, lighting, furniture and other incidental but necessary purposes, you will see just how much or rather how little remains to purchase food for the patients. In such a survey is it not on the contrary surprising that so small an allowance can be made to meet the demands, especially when it is well known that of all classes of boarders the insane are by far the most expensive, requiring not only constant and costly nursing and attention, nutritious food in large quantities, medicine and comfortable clothing, but that they are destructive of all kinds of bedding, clothing and every species of property to an extent which is hardly conceivable by those who have no knowledge of their habits.

It has been well said that "no class of citizens, no individual, can claim complete immunity from the disease of insanity; no man knows when he may have to consign some of his own family or kindred to the generous walls of an Asylum, or that even he himself may not be the next for whom admission will be asked." It is a fact that there are in this Hospital to-day representatives of the best families in the State—men and women of culture and refinement, who were once wealthy and influential but are now dependent on

* This expenditure includes the erection of the Lodge for colored men, but apart from any extraordinary expense of this kind the cost of repairs must always be large and increasing in proportion with the age of the building and wear and tear of the machinery and costly apparatus for heating, ventilating, lighting, &c.

the State for their care and treatment in the Hospital. In the light of the foregoing facts and figures, is it either practical or desirable to reduce any further the very small allowance expended in their support? Would the enlightened public sentiment of Alabama sanction for a single moment such mistaken ideas of economy? I am not sure but that the opinion prevails among those who are most competent to reach correct conclusions, that the error, if any, has been in the direction of too rigid economy in the management of the institution. Certain it is that much less is expended not only in the care of the patients but in the wages of officers, nurses and employees than in any similar institution in the country!

In conclusion, I beg that the matter of expenditure may be left (under the present wise statutory limitation) in the hands of the Trustees of the Hospital. These seven gentlemen, appointed by the Governor, are among the most intelligent and influential men in the State, are large tax-payers themselves and may safely be trusted with the State's interest in this difficult and delicate matter. More than a year ago they reduced the per capita expenditure, without solicitation from the Legislature, from four to three and a half dollars per week, and I am assured that it is their fixed policy and intention to continue the reduction, as often as it can be done without detriment to the comfort and welfare of the insane.

Question. Is any further legislation needed to meet the wants of the Hospital, or increase its efficiency as a first class curative institution?

Answer. The following suggestions in the form of Bills will commend themselves to your judgment without further explanation :

A BILL, PROVIDING

That Judges of the Circuit and City Courts, before sending an insane person to the Alabama Insane Hospital, shall make application to the Superintendent of the Hospital for the admission of said insane person, and accompanying each application with full and satisfactory answers to interrogatories propounded in § 1482 of the Code; and in case of refusal of said application, make other arrangements for the safe keeping of said insane person until notification is given by the said Superintendent that such person can be received into the Insane Hospital.

It has occasionally happened that for want of room we

have been compelled to refuse admission to criminal patients sent here by the Circuit Courts. The above Bill is intended to save the patient's traveling expenses and the vexatious refusal of his admission at the door of the Hospital.

A BILL, PROVIDING

That the friends of any indigent or criminal patient, admitted into the Alabama Insane Hospital, may secure for said patient the attention and treatment received by private or paying patients, on the payment of the difference in the cost of the support of an indigent and private patient.

The object of this Bill is to enable the families or friends of persons who are supported in the Hospital at the expense of the State to contribute to their comfort without incurring the responsibility of their full support. Many persons who are unable to support themselves for any protracted period in the Hospital, have nevertheless a limited sum that the friends or family are anxious to appropriate in securing all the additional comforts accorded to those who pay their own expenses. It seems to me there can be no objection to such an arrangement, and to gratify those who desire it I hope it may become a law.

A BILL, PROVIDING

That the State printer be instructed, with the approval of the Governor, to print biennially, before the General Assembly convenes, one thousand copies of the regular Report of the Trustees and officers of the Alabama Insane Hospital, five hundred copies of which shall be reserved by the State printer for the use of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the remaining copies shall be reserved by the State printer for distribution by the Superintendent of said Hospital.

The object of this Bill is to place the printed Report of the Hospital before each member of the Legislature at the beginning of the session instead of at the end of it, as has often been the case. During the present session the report was delayed until only a day or two before the adjournment. The above change in the time of printing involves no expenses, and the number specified to be printed is the same usually ordered by the Legislature.

A RESOLUTION

That the Secretary of State be requested to furnish the Alabama Insane Hospital with a copy of the Code.

. The importance of having the Code always at hand in the

direction of the affairs of the Hospital, is too apparent to be further insisted upon.

Respectfully submitting the above, I have the honor to be, gentlemen of the Committee,

Your most obedient servant,

P. BRYCE, Superintendent.